



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***BICENTENNIAL MOSAIC PARTNERSHIPS CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR OF SUCCESS
Diversity Program Helps Bridge Gap Among Cultures, Race and Life Experiences***

GREENSBORO, NC (November 15, 2005) The Greensboro Bicentennial Mosaic Partnerships – an initiative designed to increase communication, trust, and cooperation among the city's racial and ethnic groups - is concluding its first year. The closing ceremony will take place on November 17 at the Regency Room, 203 South Elm Street, at 4 pm. Mayor Keith Holliday will highlight program successes, and participants will hear personal testimonies from various Mosaic partners. A short video will also be shown, illustrating the importance of the program to the community.

Mayor Holliday, who along with other Council members has been a participant in this year's program, said he is very pleased with the results of the program. "I'm looking forward to seeing the ripple effects of this work in the community, as this year's participants share their new relationships with others," he said.

The Mosaic Partnerships Program was created on the premise that personal relationships can bring about social change. "As people begin to build close, trusting relationships with those of other races and backgrounds, they begin to have honest dialogue on controversial issues and truly understand other viewpoints," said Mosaic co-director Pat Boswell.

During the course of the past year, the participants met one-on-one with their partners as well as in group settings with facilitators and coaches who guided them through the process. Many partners say they have formed lasting friendships and come to a better understanding of people of other ethnicities.

"Strengthening the bonds that unite people of different races and ethnicities elevates communities to a higher degree of social connectedness, trust, and mutual cooperation," said co-director John Shaw. "Mosaic has allowed our community to examine Greensboro's racial composition with new eyes and with new determination to lend effective support to this vital and challenging concern."

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Planning for the next stage of the Mosaic project is now underway. If you are interested in participating, call 373-2038 or visit the Residents section of the City's website at www.greensboro-nc.gov.

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